

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 221711Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4532

USMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE

USINT ALGIERS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 03 PARIS 28029

EXDIS

NESCO

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, OCON, UNESCO

SUBJECT: UNESCO 18TH GENERAL CONFERENCE: FINAL WRAP-UP
ON ARAB/MOSLEM RESOLUTION ON JERUSALEM

REFS: PARIS 27150; CAIRO 9222; JIDDA 6491

PLEASE PASS TO ROY MOREY, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY, IO

1. FOLLOWING IS FINAL USDEL WRAP-UP ON JERUSALEM ITEM:

2. OUTCOME OF VOTE AT PLENARY SESSION NOV. 20 ON
PROTECTION OF CULTURAL PROPERTY IN JERUSALEM CAME AS
NO SURPRISE. AFTER VOTE IN COMMITTEE (COMMISSION III,

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SOCIAL SCIENCES, HUMANITIES & CULTURE ON NOV. 7), AND

PARTICULARLY AFTER GOI, IN ITS CONFIDENTIAL BI-LATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH USG ON THIS QUESTION, DISPLAYED NO FLEXIBILITY, POSSIBILITY OF MODERATING DR WAS, FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES, ELIMINATED. ARABS REMAINED INFLEXIBLE AND MODERATE AFRICANS HAD LITTLE TO WORK WITH.

3. BASIC ELEMENTS OF ANALYSIS OF SITUATION AS REPORTED IN PARIS 27150 OF NOV. 14 AND PREVIOUS CABLES REMAIN VALID AND NEED NOT BE REPEATED HERE. WE WOULD MAKE ONLY SOME SLIGHT ADJUSTMENTS IN OUR ORIGINAL ANALYSIS:

4. AS A RESULT OF FURTHER TALKS WITH ARAB REPS (EGYPTIANS, ALGERIANS, SAUDIS, SYRIANS AND LEBANESE) WE NOW FEEL THAT SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR CONTRIBUTING TO ADAMANT, UNCOMPROMISING ARAB STAND ON JERUSALEM IS RELIGIOUS (AND POLITICAL) LEADERSHIP OF SAUDI ARABIA WHOSE DEEP FEELINGS ABOUT SANCTITY OF MOSLEM HOLY PLACES IN JERUSALEM ARE WELL KNOWN. OUR TALKS WITH ABOVE MENTIONED ARAB REPRESENTATIVES BEAR OUT STRONGLY POINTS MADE BY AMBASSADOR EILTS CAIRO 9222 AND JIDDA IN ITS 6491. ALTHOUGH PRESENCE OF PLO REPS IN PARIS AND HARD-DRIVING ALGERIAN PERMREP WERE IMPORTANT FACTORS, THE WELL-KNOWN ATTITUDE OF A FOREMOST ARAB LEADER WHOSE DEPTH AND SINCERITY OF RELIGIOUS CONVICTION IS UNCONTESTED, BY THE ARABS AND BY THE US, WAS IN THE LAST ANALYSIS DECISIVE.

5. IT IS OUR FRANK ASSESSMENT, AS OF THE PRESENT MOMENT, THAT THE MAIN SIGNIFICANCE OF ARAB/MOSLEM RESOLUTION ON JERUSALEM IS NOT, REPEAT NOT, THE OPENING SALVO IN AN ARAB CAMPAIGN TO READ ISRAEL OUT OF THE

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AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
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UNITED NATIONS AND THE UN SYSTEM. ISRAEL MIGHT SIN-
CERELY VIEW PASSAGE OF RESOLUTION AND EXCLUSION OF
ISRAEL FROM UNESCO'S EUR REGIONAL GROUP AS PART AND
PARCEL OF A CAREFULLY ORCHESTRATED ARAB CAMPAIGN TO
ELIMINATE ISRAEL FROM THE UNITED NATIONS. ON THIS
POINT PARTICULARLY, USDEL OF OPINION THAT IT IS EX-
TREMELY IMPORTANT THAT USG OFFICIAL POSITION MAINTAIN
CORRECT BALANCE AND PROSPECTIVE. THE ARABS, DESPITE
THE POLITICALLY EMOTIONAL AND UNYIELDING NATURE OF
THEIR EFFORTS, HAVE GONE ON RECORD IN THE APPROPRIATE
UN FORUM -- UNESCO -- TO NOTE THAT THEY WILL TOTALLY
OPPOSE ANY CHANGES IN THE CULTURAL CHARACTER OF
JERUSALEM.

6. WISH PARTICULARLY HIGHLIGHT FOR ATTENTION OF DEPT.,
WASHINGTON COMMUNITY, AND ADDRESSEE POSTS MOST CON-
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CERNED, FACT THAT EGYPTIAN AND ALGERIAN PERMREPS, DURING
FINAL DEBATE IN PLENARY, WENT TO CONSIDERABLE LENGTHS
TO REASSURE US AND WORLD PUBLIC OPINION THAT ARABS WERE
NOT TRYING TO OBTAIN THE EXCLUSION OF ISRAEL FROM THE
UNITED NATIONS. EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR WAKIL, SPEAKING FOR
FIRST TIME IN FRENCH FOR MAXIMUM CLARITY, AND NOT IN
ARABIC AS HE USUALLY DOES, STRESSED THAT RESOLUTION WAS
"PROVISIONAL, PREVENTIVE, AND CONDITIONAL." WAKIL
ALSO EMPHASIZED STRONGLY THAT ARAB/MOSLEM RESOLUTION
"SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED IN A MANNER WHICH EXTENDS
BEYOND THE FRAMEWORK AND THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF
UNESCO." THIS, IN USDEL VIEW, WAS CLEAR MESSAGE AIMED
AT USG. THIS SAME POINT, MADE BY MOST PROMINENT ARAB
REPRESENTATIVES IN FULL AND OPEN DEBATE, HAS BEEN RE-

PEATEDLY STRESSED TO USDEL MEMBERS BY ARAB REPS IN CORRIDOR TALKS. WE BELIEVE IT TO BE IN USG INTEREST, TO TAKE ARAB REASSURANCES AT FACE VALUE UNTIL SUCH TIME AS TRENDS AND EVENTS PROVE OTHERWISE. SIGNIFICANT TO NOTE THAT UNITED STATES WAS NEVER ATTACKED DURING LONG AND EMOTIONAL DEBATES.

7. DETERMINATION OF ARABS, IN ABSENCE SOME GOI CONCESSIONS RE JERUSALEM, TO PURSUE THEIR EFFORT WITH FURTHER AND HARSHER RESOLUTIONS, ALONG MODEL WHICH LED TO PORTUGAL'S WITHDRAWAL FROM UNESCO, MUST NONETHELESS BE CONSIDERED A SERIOUS REALITY.

8. SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL, PER SE, IS WANING. DEPT. SHOULD CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THAT EFFORT OF AFRICANS TO MODERATE DRAFT RESOLUTION WERE MOTIVATED BY DESIRE PROTECT UNESCO AND DIRECTOR GENERAL M'BOW AND DO NOT REFLECT ANY SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL. US SUPPORT OF M'BOW'S CANDIDACY AND US "YES" VOTE ON BUDGET WERE IMPORTANT FACTORS IN WILLINGNESS OF AFRICANS TO MAKE SUCH A SUSTAINED EFFORT. WEST EUROPEANS SEEM LESS AND LESS INCLINED BECOME INVOLVED, AS INDICATED IN REGIONAL VOTE WHERE THEY REFUSED TO SPEAK.

9. FINAL NOTE ON JERUSALEM IS THAT DR WAS CO-SPONSORED BY MOSLEM COUNTRIES OF ASIA AND THEIR SUPPORT NEVER WAVERED DESPITE OUR BEST EFFORTS. JERUSALEM ISSUE MAY
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PRE-STAGE OTHER EFFORTS WHICH CAN TAKE ON INCREASED ASPECTS OF RELIGIOUS CONTROVERSY. US MAY WELL FIND ITSELF NOT ONLY IN OPPOSITION TO ARABS BUT IN LATER STAGES WITH ENTIRE GROUP OF MOSLEM COUNTRIES.

10. SOVIETS CLEARLY SEE THESE TRENDS AS INCREASING THEIR INFLUENCE WITH ARABS AND OTHER MOSLEM STATES AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO PLAY THIS TREND FOR ALL IT IS WORTH. ARAB REPS CONTINUALLY TELL US, IN UTTER SERIOUSNESS, THEY CANNOT UNDERSTAND WHY USG CONTINUES TO ALLOW USSR TO PICK UP SUCH IMPORTANT CREDITS WITH ARAB/MOSLEM BLOC.

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4534

USMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

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11. CONCERNING THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL ISSUE, IT CANNOT BE EMPHASIZED STRONGLY ENOUGH THAT KEY FACT IS THAT ISRAEL HAS NOT REPEAT NOT BEEN PERMANENTLY BARRED FROM EUROPE. FIRST AND FOREMOST IS CONSIDERATION THAT ISRAEL CAN AGAIN APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP IN 1976 AT THE 19TH GENERAL CONFERENCE; THANKS TO THE PASSAGE OF THE FRENCH RESOLUTION TEXT DEFERRING UNTIL THEN SUCH STATES NOT YET ADMITTED TO REGIONAL GROUPS.

12. MOREOVER, ISRAEL CAN BE INVITED ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS TO ATTEND UNESCO EUROPEAN GROUP MEETINGS AS DECIDED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD ON WHICH SYRIA WILL BE OFF-SET BY THE MORE MODERATE INFLUENCE OF TUNISIA AND EGYPT. INDEED AS THERE ARE NOT ANY SUCH MEETINGS PLANNED FOR 1975-76 AT PRESENT, ISRAEL HAS NOT, IN CONCRETE TERMS,
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ACTUALLY BEEN EXCLUDED FROM ANY ACTIVITY. THEY HAVE

LOST ONLY, IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, THE RIGHT TO AN
AUTOMATIC INVITATION AND ARE NOT EXCLUDED FROM INVITATION
SHOULD SUCH MEETINGS BE HELD.

13. WE HAVE RESTRICTED DISTRIBUTION ON THIS CABLE TO
KEY POSTS ONLY. SINCE ISSUE WILL BE WITH US FOR SOME
TIME, HOWEVER, AND FURTHER DISCUSSIONS AND EXPLANATIONS
OF US POSITION MAY BECOME NECESSARY, WE RECOMMEND THAT
DEPARTMENT REPEAT THIS TELEGRAM TO ALL ADDRESSEES WHO
RECEIVED PARIS 27150 OF 14 NOV.
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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 22 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
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